



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 30th APRIL 2014 AT 16:30hrs IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT THE CHAMBER OFFICE

Council Members present: Jacques Nioteau, Thomas Bayer, Bryan Death, Daniel Faivre, Geordie Mackenzie-Reur, Donald Massing and Morgan Bragg

Representatives of Council Members: John Moran representing Paul Stafford

Executives present: Astrid Boulekone

Apologies: Chris Kernot, Jioji Konusi, Joseph Laloyer, Alain Lew, Paul Stafford, James Roy Matariki, Anita Deroin, David Russet and Narcisse Sumtoh

1. Opening

There was no quorum; the General Manager called the meeting to order at 16:50 hours.

2. Welcome by President

As a normal practice the meeting began by a welcome address by the VCCI's outgoing President Mr. Jacques Nioteau at around 4.35pm before the meeting proper started by first approving the minutes of the previous AGM and considering matters arising from the minutes.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2013

The minutes of the AGM held on 30 April 2013 was looked at and approved accordingly.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were two points raised as matters arising from the 2013 AGM and the first being that according to the report there was an increase in employment and the second was that there must have been a mistake in the number of land transport registered for the year 2013 as there was a reduction in the number in that particular category when compared to the previous years. Verification with the Department of Customs will be sought.

5. Annual Report for the Year ended 31 December 2013

The annual report for the year ending 31st December 2013 was looked at and approved. The motion was passed.

6. Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2013

The financial statements in the report were also looked at. The statements showed that the VCCI has improved in its financial status although there are areas that need polishing up. It was raised that important lost to the VCCI considering debts from student fees which have not being paid must be collected to improve the VCCI's financial situation.

The meeting heard from the current President, Mr. Tom Bayer that he was elected in a recent PIPSO AGM in Nadi, Fiji to be a PIPSO Board member, a position that was never held by a Vanuatu private sector representative. The President went on to state that the VCCI performs better in terms of delivering its programs to its members as well as is better organized than any other Chambers in the Pacific. Moreover the General Manager, Ms. Astrid Boulekone gave a brief progressive update report on the Pacific Business Mentoring Program as well as announced that two volunteers will be joining the VCCI later on this year to work with the Training and Employers Units respectively.

To improve services delivered which will in turn have a positive impact of the VCCI's financial situation, the GM stated that the VCCI will consolidate its trainings as well as train the current trainers to become business mentors.

The Financial Statements for the year ended 31st December 2013 was approved. The motion was passed.

7. Auditor's Report for the Year ended 31 December 2013

The Auditor, Kerry Sanders of Sanders and Co. who audited the VCCI accounts was present during the meeting. He said the accounts are fair and correct.

Thomas Bayer noted that the report is unqualified. The Auditor's Report for the year ended 31st December 2013 was approved. The motion was passed.

8. Election of Council Members

The following nominations were accepted and unopposed:

Small commerce: Mrs. Carolyn Ernst

Air Transport: Mr. Joseph Laloyer

Public Utilities: Mr. Prakash Bheekhoo
Mr. Simon Fraser, proposed Alternate

The following nominations were re-elected:

Large commerce: Mr. Alain Lew

Building : Mr. Roy Matariki

Manufacturing: Mr. Geordie Mackenzie-Reur

Logistics: Mr. Chris Kernot
Mr. Herve Gauchet, proposed Alternate

Thomas Bayer noted that certain representatives do not attend meetings and hence do not adequately represent their industries. He asked that all sector organisations to nominate someone who is interested to contribute and participate to meetings.

9. VCCI New Building

The issue regarding a VCCI new building which was on the agenda was brought up. There were a lot of discussions on this issue. A member stated that the VCCI should keep the property and not having the Ministry of Trade taking control over it. It was noted as well during the discussions that the building is a national heritage. At the conclusion of the discussions it was however decided that the current Council will meet with the government possibly the Ministry of Trade to discuss this issue further.

10. Other Business

- A member raised a point regarding the review of the VCCI Act however the respond was that the VCCI needs to have a draft Private Sector Policy document, which is a priority at the moment, in place first before looking at reviewing the Act.
- Another member raised the issue of having the Provincial Chambers. The VCCI has no budget of establishing these provincial chambers apart from the Santo Chamber. The Provincial Chambers are to be established based on the provincial business associations and the budget to be sourced from provincial business licence fees.
- A member stated that it is important to relook into the inclusion of Category F businesses to be members of the VCCI as this will increase the VCCI's income.
- Another member raised an issue stating that the VCCI should look into ways of getting more members to participate in the VCCI meetings as well as attending the AGMs.
- A member raised the issue that in the AVL, VIPA and VNPF boards there are no representatives of the private sector. Most board members are civil servants who have no experiences and qualifications in business. This shows a conflict of interest.

11. Closure

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed at 17:55 hours.

Signed as a correct record:

Chairman